

The Shanachie

Connecticut Irish-American
Historical Society

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Civil War 150th Anniversary

Sentry at St. Bernard's stands watch over resting place of Irish comrades

The graves of Connecticut Irish-American patriots can be found at Civil War battlefields from Bull Run, Va., to New Orleans, La., and from Antietam, Md., to Gettysburg, Pa. But in New Haven, Ct., there is an almost forgotten cemetery, St. Bernard's, in which there probably are more Connecticut Irish soldiers from that war interred than any in any other single place.

So many, in fact, that in 1886 the state of Connecticut appropriated \$3,000 for construction of a monument to their memory. Lists published at that time, 20 years after the war, indicated that by then, well before the passing of the Civil War generation, more than 150 Civil War veterans had been interred there.

Recent research indicates that more

than 300 Civil War veterans are buried there.

Ironically, the monument was dedicated on the very same day, Oct. 28, 1886, that another great memorial of Irish-American immigration, the Statue of Liberty, was dedicated in New York harbor.

Later this summer, our CIAHS will sponsor a special memorial program at St. Bernard's Cemetery as part of the statewide and nationwide observance of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, which began with the attack on Fort Sumter in Charleston, S.C., harbor in April 1861.

The 1886 dedication of the monument at St. Bernard's — pronounced with the accent on the second syllable by New Haveners — was virtually a civic holiday

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CCSU to host April 16-17 events

Connecticut's Irish will be well represented in the numerous events that are being planned this year to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War. Historical societies, libraries, schools and other organizations throughout the state are collaborating to ensure that the history of the war and the sacrifices of Americans in that era are remembered.

The Irish-American Historical Society, the Irish History Round Table and the



Ninth Connecticut Volunteers Committee are planning activities that will memorialize the role the state's Irish immigrants played in one of the most important and tragic eras in American history.

The state coordinator of the Connecticut Civil War Commemoration Committee is Matthew Warshauer, Ph.D., professor of history at Central Connecticut State University, and author of a just published history of the war, *Connecticut in the American Civil War: Slavery, Sacrifice and Survival*.

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In 1886, the state of Connecticut provided \$3,000 for a monument in St. Bernard's Cemetery in New Haven to honor the many Civil War veterans buried there. This statue of a color-bearer stands atop the 32-foot granite pillar in the cemetery located on Ella Grasso Boulevard.

Sacred Heart University to scan CTIAHS book and newsletters

Sacred Heart University in Fairfield has agreed to scan for its online collections some history resources produced by the Connecticut Irish-American Historical Society.

The CTIAHS has provided the university with a set of 20 years of *The Shanachie*, our newsletter and journal of Connecticut Irish history, and a copy of our book *The Cry of the Famishing*.

The book is a 200-page study of the impact on Connecticut of the Great Hunger in Ireland in the late 1840s. It includes chapters about the influx of Irish immigrants to Connecticut during the famine and the religious, political, economic and social aspects of their putting down roots in Connecticut.

The university will photocopy the CTIAHS material and add it to other materials available online through its library. Hopefully, the cooperative project with Sacred Heart will make our materials more available and lead to more interest in research on the history of Irish people in Connecticut.

The venture is the first of what will be a series of steps to use new technology to make it easier for researchers in the field of Irish-American studies to do research on the materials we have been collecting for more than 20 years.

A second objective will be to begin digitalizing on our own website the materials within our collection.

We have in our library, for example, an important collection of New Haven public school records that would be valuable

for family history researchers and a collection of documents from and about Northern Ireland during the Troubles there in the late 20th century.

Still another project for the future is to create and post online picture and text exhibits about Irish people and places in Connecticut. One online exhibit might be a study of Irish population in the state over the centuries. Another might be on the achievements of Connecticut's Irish women.

These exhibits might be placed on our current website or on a website specifically designed by the CTIAHS to trace the history of the Irish in our state.

The Sacred Heart project comes at a time when that university is expanding its own Irish Studies program.

Beginning in the 2011-12 academic year, Sacred Heart will offer a minor in Irish Studies.

The minor will be coordinated with Sacred Heart's already functioning Center for Irish Cultural Studies in Dingle, County Kerry. The minor will require at least three credits to be earned at the center.

Students will enroll either in a two-week or semester-long stay in Dingle.

Other core requirements for the 18-credit, six-course, minor are a foundation course in Celtic and Irish history and at least one course each in religious studies and Irish literature. Courses will also be offered in the areas of anthropology, media studies, Irish music and political science on a two-year cycle.



Church Street had a new name-for-a-day for the annual St. Patrick's Day parade in New Haven in March. The person honored was the late Tom Slater. Tom was a mover and a shaker of the parade. He was grand marshal of the parade and for many years recruited the marching units. One of his major achievements was having the New Haven parade, which began in 1842, memorialized in the Library of Congress as a local heritage project. Tom also was treasurer of the Connecticut Irish-American Historical Society for many years.

CTIAHS to meet on April 30

Members are invited to attend a general membership meeting of the CTIAHS at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 30, at the Ethnic Heritage Center, Fitch St., New Haven, on the campus of Southern Connecticut State University. Items on the agenda include:

- Discussion of genealogy workshops.
- Scanning of Shanachie newsletters by the library of Sacred Heart University in Fairfield.
- Work on new sketches for a logo for the CTIAHS.
- Election of officers.
- Plans for a breakfast meeting.
- History of St. Patrick's Day parade.
- Planning of a ceremony at St. Bernard's Cemetery in New Haven this summer in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War in 1861.
- Plans for honoring the memory of Tom Slater, long-time treasurer of CTIAHS.

A long story, a tall tale or a bit of both?

How Callahan ended up with Old Hickory's cane

Is there a walking stick fashioned from a piece of hickory tucked away in an attic or cellar of a Connecticut descendant of the great Callahan clan?

If a story printed in the New Haven Register on April 22, 1881, can be trusted, there may well be. The author of the tale was a Register reporter. Strolling near New Haven harbor looking for a story to fill the next day's issue, the reporter came across an old gentleman looking at his cane.

Approaching the man, the young reporter struck up a conversation and soon learned that the owner of the cane was James Callahan, a resident of Goffe Street.

That much of the story can be validated for the 1880 U.S. Census returns do show James Callahan, age 69, living on Goffe Street with his wife Mary, age 54, and a son, John, 40. Both James and Mary were natives of Ireland, while John was born in Connecticut. John, a house painter, was the breadwinner in the house for Mary was "keeping house," and James gave "no occupation" with the explanation that he had "rheumatism."

"That seems to be a remarkable cane you have there," commented the reporter.

"What makes you say that?" asked the old gentleman.

Looking to entertain readers

"Well, I judged partly from the look of the cane itself, and partly from the affectionate way in which I thought you seemed to gaze upon it from time to time ... I have a sort of instinctive conviction that the biography of that stick would be enter-

taining to the great constituency — the thousands of readers of the Register — whose most humble servant I am proud to be."

With such an appeal, Callahan could hardly refuse to relate the story of the cane. It came to New Haven on a visit to the city of the president known as "Old Hickory." In fact, he explained, President Andrew Jackson actually was given that nickname because wherever he went his old hickory cane went with him.

Jackson's visit

Callahan said the president was using the cane when he visited New Haven many years before. "I was scarcely more than a lad myself," said the old man. Born in Ireland between 1811 and 1815, Callahan worked as a carman, or carriage driver, after arriving in New Haven. He would have been about 22 when President Jackson visited New Haven in June 1833.

The president's visit was part of a tour through the Middle Atlantic and New England states. It came a few months after his reelection for a second term. In visiting New England, he was in territory where he was not very popular. In 1828, Connecticut voters gave him only 4,448 votes as against 13,829 for New England



Andrew Jackson's parents emigrated from Carrickfergus, County Antrim and settled in Tennessee. He was known as "Old Hickory," some say from his toughness; others, from the walking stick, above, made of old hickory that he carried and used. One report has it that the walking stick ended up in New Haven in the hands of James Callahan, a retired cabman. Does anyone know where the old hickory walking stick is today? (Picture from Life and Public Services of Gen. Andrew Jackson, edited by John S. Jenkins, Buffalo, 1852.)

native, John Q. Adams. In 1832, Jackson did a little better in Connecticut: 11,269 votes for him and 17,755 for Henry Clay.

Beginning in early June,

Jackson went by boat and stagecoach to Philadelphia, New York, New Haven, Hartford, New London, Providence, Boston and several other Massachusetts towns. Originally he planned to stop in Portsmouth, N.H., and other northern New England cities, but illness curtailed those plans.

Callahan said he recalled the visit to New Haven in mid-June: "I remember some of the incidents of the occasion as though they had occurred but yesterday. I can see with my mind's eye, the old hero as he rode through the streets seated in a carriage with Squire William Ellis and other leading citizens, with this very hickory stick planted between his legs and his hands clasped over the top of it."

A grateful president

According to Callahan, Jackson was very grateful for the hospitality shown him by Squire Ellis, who was for a time U.S. customs collector at the Port of New Haven. Ellis was a great admirer of the president and even named his son Andrew Jackson Ellis.

When his visit to New Haven ended, Jackson told Ellis that any gift he requested would be given.

When Ellis asked for his walking stick, Jackson hesitated but eventually replied, "Take it my friend and may it be as serviceable to you as it has been to

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Civil War 150th Anniversary

Many events will commemorate beginning of Civil War

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Since 2008, Warshauer has marshaled more than 70 organizations to take part in the 2011-2015 sesquicentennial of the war.

The website for the sesquicentennial is part of the overall Central Connecticut website — www.ccsu.edu/civilwar.

The website is an encyclopedia of information about the commemoration. It lists all the collaborating organizations, upcoming events, speakers who are available on various topics having to do with the Civil War anniversary, etc.

Opening events

Statewide, the events will begin on Tuesday, April 12, at 8 a.m. at the State Capitol in Hartford with a commemorative firing of cannons to mark the 150th anniversary of the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter in Charleston, S.C., harbor. Gov. Dannel Malloy has been invited to deliver the opening remarks.

On Saturday and Sunday, April 16-17, there will be a weekend of commemorative events on the campus of Central Connecticut State University.

Saturday, April 16

10 a.m. — Events begin with Civil War re-enactors, Governor's Foot Guard and National Guard units leading a salute to the flag with the playing of the national anthem and a 21-gun salute.

All day — Re-enactment encampment at Stanley Quarter Park adjacent to the CCSU campus with sights and smells of



Irish Participation

The Irish History Round Table, the Irish-American Historical Society and the Ninth Connecticut Volunteers Committee are planning a number of activities to commemorate the service of Connecticut's Irish in the Civil War. All three groups will have tables at the opening weekend of the sesquicentennial at CCSU on April 16-17.

At the Round Table monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 19, the speaker will be Ryan Keating of Fordham University. Keating is working on a doctoral degree. The topic of his dissertation is the history of several lesser-known Irish regiments in the war, one of which is the Ninth Connecticut Volunteers. The meeting is at 7:30 p.m. at the Knights of St. Patrick on State Street in New Haven, and open to the public with no charge. During the sesquicentennial, the Round Table will have other talks on Civil War topics.

In mid-summer, a wreath-laying ceremony is being planned St. Bernard's Cemetery in New Haven, the resting place of more than 300 Civil War veterans, most of them Irish. The date will be announced shortly. In addition to the wreath-laying, guided tours will be provided to point out many of the veterans' grave sites. At some point during the sesquicentennial, an effort will be made to provide information online about on as many Connecticut Irish soldiers who served in the Civil War as can be catalogued.

Also due in mid-summer is publication of a book titled: *Strong in their patriotic devotion: Connecticut's Irish in the Civil War*. The book will be an expanded version of a booklet published several years ago by the Irish-American Historical Society. It will feature stories about the Ninth Connecticut Volunteers, a regiment comprised mostly of Irish soldiers, and about the many other Connecticut Irishmen who served in a number of other Connecticut regiments and in regiments raised in New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and other states.

camp life and sutlers hawking merchandise.

2:30 p.m. — Re-enactment of a Civil War battle in Stanley Quarter Park.

All day — In the exhibit hall in the Student Union, dozens of

state organizations will display exhibits of Civil War items, video shows and schedules of their upcoming Civil War events. The Irish-American Historical Society, the Round Table and the Ninth Volunteers

Committee will feature displays about the state's Irish participation in the war.

In the CCSU Chen Art Gallery, a lithograph and envelope display.

In the CCSU Elihu Burritt Library, Civil War Exhibit.

Sunday, April 17

9 a.m. — Worship service in Stanley Quarter Park.

All day — Camp life at Stanley Quarter Park; organizations' exhibits in CCSU Student Union.

All day — Exhibits open in Chen Art Gallery and Elihu Burritt Library.

10 to 11:30 a.m. — Vintage Civil War era baseball game in Stanley Quarter Park.

1 p.m. — Battle re-enactment in Stanley Quarter Park.

2 to 4 p.m. — Talks on Civil War topics in CCSU Student Union.

April, May events

Several events will continue in May: An exhibit, *Darien's Boys in Blue: The Civil War and Fitch's Home for Soldiers*, at the Darien Historical Society. And, an exhibit, *Winslow Homer and the American Civil War*, at the New Britain Museum of American Art.

Other events will appear on the website as they are scheduled.

Curriculum project

One long-range goal of the commemoration committee is the creation of a storehouse of Civil War projects that can be used by teachers in schools throughout the state.

St. Bernard's is resting place of many Irish Civil War vets

(Continued from page 1)

in the city. Schools were closed, and many factories and stores shut down for the parade of veterans and dignitaries and for the ceremonies at the cemetery, and "dense throngs lined Chapel and Church streets" downtown where the parade stepped off.

At 2:30 p.m. the marchers, led by the 24-member Second Regiment Band, proceeded from the Green to Congress Avenue, Howard Avenue, Columbus Avenue and Hedge Street to the cemetery.

Despite chilly weather, cloudy skies, muddy streets and mist, a crowd estimated at 5,000 gathered to witness the dedication of the monument that stood amidst the graves of soldiers and some of New Haven's early Irish settlers.

Governor attended

Marchers and spectators gathered in a hollow square around the monument. Dignitaries, among them Connecticut Gov. Harrison and the noted speaker, Father Edward McGlynn of New York City, were escorted to a grandstand erected for the occasion.

A tattered battle flag from the war draped the statue of a soldier that stood atop the 32-foot-tall granite pillar.

The pillar rose from three seven-foot-square bases forming the foundation steps of the monument.

On the front of the monument was engraved Connecticut's coat of arms and motto, and a cross, "the emblem of faith that animated those whose graves nestle thickly in St. Bernard's," commented the Journal and Courier.

The inscription on the



Among the many Civil War veterans' gravestones in St. Bernard's Cemetery in New Haven is the above marker of Medal of Honor recipient James T. Murphy. An artilleryman, Murphy was honored with the medal for his bravery in manning a cannon singlehandedly during the Union Siege of Petersburg, Va., in 1865.

monument read, "Erected by the State of Connecticut In Grateful Commemoration of Those who Died that the Nation Might Live."

On the sides were chiseled an anchor and rope representing the Navy, crossed-cannons representing the Army, and a wreath of olive and oak leaves representing strength and peace. The statue atop the monument was of a Civil War volunteer in full army campaign dress, the soldier's left hand holding the American flag.

After the playing of the National Anthem, the crowd was welcomed by former state Sen. Joseph D. Plunkett, chairman of the monument committee. Plunkett credited the three Grand Army of the Republic posts in New Haven for acquiring the plot of ground in the cemetery for the monument in memory to the Irish soldiers and those Civil War soldiers who had perished in Knight's

General Hospital and are buried there.

Monument presented

Plunkett then formally presented the monument to the St. Bernard's Cemetery Association. Father Russell, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, accepted the monument for the association. "The gift," said the priest, "will ever remind all our people that the State of Connecticut holds in reverence the memory of those who fell defending the freedom of this great country, forever united and indivisible. Many a tear was shed and heart broken for the loss of dear friends who went forth to battle and never returned; but today we rejoice when we know they shed their blood in behalf of a generous country and that this monument is raised over their sacred ashes by loving comrades and friends."

Because the late afternoon mist had turned to a steady drizzle, the ceremony was adjourned from cemetery to

Caril's Opera House where "the immense building was soon thronged to excess, every seat in every part being occupied ..."

Gov. Harrison was introduced and spoke on the unique nature of the monument. He said, "This monument was erected by the state itself, and in that respect standing conspicuously alone among the monuments which commemorate the deeds of our heroes who died in the service of the Union during the war of the rebellion."

"It is right that the memory of those men should be honored by this high and solitary distinction," the governor continued. "They were not bound to the State or the Nation by the ties of birth. They did not die in defense of the homes or the graves of their ancestors. They had come across the sea from a distant land. In that case, therefore, some of the strongest motives of sentiment which impel men to extreme efforts of patriotic energy and zeal did not exist."

"But they were not mercenaries. Neither did they fight for glory in the present or fame in the future."

"They sacrificed themselves deliberately, not for their native land, but for the love of the great republic and in intelligent devotion to the great ideas, which among all nations of the earth the republic pre-eminently represents."

Sources: *New Haven Register*, March 2, May 20, 27, June 14, 22, Oct. 28, 29, 1866. *New Haven Morning News*, Oct. 28, 1886. *St. Bernard's transcriptions*, web.mac.com/jlmaher.

Stamford students use CTIAHS library for prize-winning project

An audio-visual documentary on Irish-American history produced by two eighth-grade students at Turn of the River Middle School in Stamford won first place in the regional State History Day Competition on March 26.

The students, Julia Zimmerman and Bridget Smith, will compete on April 30 in Hartford for all-Connecticut honors in the annual competition.

Julia and Bridget chose our Connecticut Irish-American Historical Society library at the Ethnic Heritage Center in New Haven as one of the archives to visit while researching their topic: "The Irish in America: Discrimination and Triumph."

They visited our library twice to interview our staff, and they used our 1998 book, *Cry of the Famishing: Ireland, Connecticut and the Potato Famine*, as one of the publications they studied during their research.



Julia Zimmerman, left, and Bridget Smith set up their camera to do an audio-visual interview at the Connecticut Irish-American Historical Society library.

They also visited the An Gorta Mor famine collection at the Quinnipiac University Library, the American Irish Historical Society, Castle Garden and the Irish Hunger Memorial, all in New York City, the Stamford Historical Society, and Christ Church in Philadelphia.

The topic of this year's National History Day project is "Debate and Diplomacy: Successes, Failures and Consequences." Bridget and Julia focused their presentation on the debate of whether immigrants should have the same rights as natives. They used the experience of the huge numbers of Irish immigrants who came to the United States during the famine era, and the discrimination they faced. Bridget said she was personally interested because her great-grandparents were Irish immigrants.

Their teachers Heather Lorenz and Thomas Johnston were advisers for the project.

Did Connecticut Irishman have a cane used by Andrew Jackson?

(Continued from page 3)

me." Ellis cherished the cane until his death when he bequeathed it to an old friend, "Commodore" Gregory. The "commodore" was Francis H. Gregory, a U.S. Navy officer, who for at least part of his life, lived with his family in New Haven.

Born in Norwalk in 1789 to a family that settled in Massachusetts in colonial times, Gregory joined the Navy in 1809 and fought in the War of 1812 in battles on Lake Ontario. Captured in 1814, he was a prisoner in Dartmoor Prison in England for 18 months. After serving in the Mexican War and as commander of the Navy's African Squadron, he retired and settled in New Haven in the 1850s.

In 1861, he came out of retirement to oversee construction of Civil War ships. He was commissioned a rear admiral,

and served until the war ended.

Callahan explained that he was a good friend of Gregory: "The commodore and myself had been ... boys together and on one occasion, after I had done him what he considered a particular service, he presented the cane to me. Were I to tell you the circumstances which led to this gift, they would occupy too much space. Probably what I have already told you will suffice for your purpose."

Callahan's reference to a service he had rendered the naval officer is intriguing. With Gregory born in 1789 and Callahan, in 1811-1815, the two obviously did not grow up as "boys together." However, they may have become acquainted through Callahan's work as a carriage driver. Or, Callahan perhaps served in the Navy on one of Gregory's ships.

One circumstance that

could have led to a friendship between the Navy officer and Callahan was that Gregory had married the daughter of an Irishman, another Navy officer, John Shaw, who was born in Mountmellick, County Laois.

The presidential cane made its way to the Callahan clan of Connecticut before 1866 when Gregory died in Brooklyn, N.Y., at the age of 76.

Callahan allowed the Register reporter to inspect the cane more closely. "It was," wrote the journalist, "one of those old-fashioned plain hickory sprouts, with the bark left on, with multitudinous knobs, diversifying its corrugated surface, and with a knobbed head — an unpretentious and democratic sort of stick, truly, but solid to the core, even as was the rugged and unbending patriotism of the grand old man whose companion and support it once had been."

Callahan got to enjoy the presidential walking stick only briefly, for he died at the age of 74 in January 1884. His funeral at St. Mary's Church was reportedly largely attended. He left his second wife, and six children: John, Andrew and David all of New Haven; Mrs. William Starkey of Chicago, Mrs. William Hyland and Mrs. John J. Cox of New Haven. He was buried in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Sources: New Haven Evening Register, April 22, 1881. 1860 and 1880 U.S. Census, New Haven, for James Callahan. New Haven Register, Jan. 25, 1884, James Callahan obituary. New London Gazette, June 19, 1833. New York Spectator, June 27, 1833. Boston Courier, July 1, 1833. American Sentinel, June 19, 1833. Hartford Courant, June 17, 1833. History of Andrew Jackson, by Augustus C. Buell, Vol. I, 1904.

Bridgeport fruit dealer had roots in Georgia

Meticulous census taker helped solve genealogy mystery

by Paul Keroack

In tracing the ancestry of most 19th century Irish immigrants, finding the place — even the county — of their birth in Ireland can be a difficult barrier to research.

Clues to Irish origins may be found in cemeteries, church records, membership rolls, among other sources — though seldom in the federal census.

Thomas J. Garry spent a little more than 20 years in Connecticut before relocating to New York State, but while living here he married, raised a family and honed skills which culminated in a solid, entrepreneurial career.

Born in Georgia

While researching another Irish emigrant family in Bridgeport with whom he was associated, I was intrigued to note that in every written record Thomas Garry gave his place of birth as Georgia and sometimes more specifically as Savannah. It was also clear that his parents were from Ireland, immigrants within a decade before his birth.

Since he was born in 1861 he would not be recorded in the census of 1860, but I thought it worth a look in case his parents were already resident in that city.

On the census register page dated June 14, 1860, for Savannah, Chatham County, was recorded Patrick Garry, age 26, laborer, born in “Made” Ireland, along with his wife Margaret, age 28, grocer, born in Roscommon, Ireland.

They had a son John, age seven years, six months, born

in Savannah. Living with them were two men, Brian Bagley, 28, laborer, born in “Westmade” Ireland and James Kellum, 40, laborer, born Queens County, Ireland.

peak immigration years between 1840 and 1852, were Catholic.

They worked primarily in lumbering, warehousing and loading cargo vessels with

1862 or after December 1864 due to the wartime blockade imposed by Union forces. In Ireland the family lived in the area of Jenkinstown, in the Monalvey Catholic parish, County Meath.

When Thomas was 19, he returned to the states at the invitation of his uncle John, a resident of New Jersey.

In the 1880 census taken on June 18, he was residing in Castle Garden, N.Y., with hundreds of other newly arrived immigrants.

By the mid-1880s he was living in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Why he settled there is not known. There was an earlier immigrant Thomas Garry who died in Bridgeport in 1880, but his gravestone shows he was a native of County Westmeath, so it is doubtful that he was related to the younger Thomas.

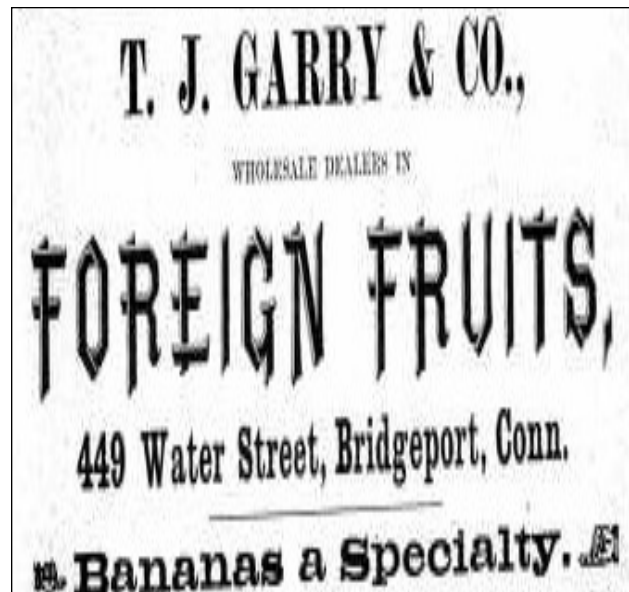
The 1884 directory displays an ad for “T.J. Garry & Co., wholesale dealer in foreign fruits — bananas a specialty.” Bananas were still exotic in the United States so it is not surprising that the firm did not succeed.

Waterfront businesses

He was then employed in various fish markets which operated along Bridgeport’s waterfront. From about 1894 to 1906 he operated a fish market at 24 (later 100) Wall St. in partnership with Charles J. Gallen under the name of “Garry and Gallen.”

The latter was a nephew of Michael Carey who had operated a fish market at the same location for a number of years until his death in 1882.

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Once I saw “Westmade” I realized that it referred to Westmeath County and “Made” was, of course, Meath County.

The handwriting on the page was perfect, so any ambiguity in the names was likely due to emigrants’ pronunciation of the place names. The census taker, Charles J. White, was meticulous in transcribing the counties or cities of birth of all residents even though not obliged to do so.

The Irish community in Savannah comprised over 19 percent of the almost 14,000 free white persons in Georgia’s then largest city. There were also 700 free blacks and another 7,000 in slavery. Most Irish who arrived between the

cotton to be shipped from the port. According to the Diocese of Savannah, Thomas Joseph Garry was born on Oct. 3, 1861, son of Patrick Garry and Margaret Conrey, and baptized at the cathedral on Oct. 9. The parents were a minority among the Irish in not hailing from Wexford, Cork, Mayo, Tipperary, Cavan or Kerry.

A 10-year-old entry on an Internet genealogy message board filled in the early life of Thomas J. Garry. According to this account, his mother died as a result of childbirth and Thomas was sent back to Ireland to be raised by relatives.

County Meath roots

The voyage would have had to take place before April

Life took Irishman from Savannah to Bridgeport to Albany

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The partners likely met while both worked in W.D. Cook & Sons' fish market in the early '90s.

Thomas J. Garry was married on Jan. 19, 1891, to Kate Farrell, a Bridgeport native. Listed in the 1900 census at 160 George St. were Thomas and Catherine Garry and their four children. Gallen left the partnership about 1906, leaving Garry to operate it alone, which he did for several more years.

By 1910 Thomas J. Garry and his family had relocated to

Albany, N.Y., where he operated a restaurant and was later a fish broker/wholesaler. Apparently a successful businessman, most of his seven children later became professionally employed, with careers in insurance, teaching and stenography.

Garry died in Albany on March 26, 1954, at the age of 92. According to the Albany Times-Union he was survived by five children — his wife and two children predeceasing him — 25 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.

Sources: 1860 U.S. Census, Georgia, Chatham Co. Savannah, District 1. M653, roll 115, p. 19. Savannah Irish, sullivansin-america.blogspot.com/2009/10/savannah-georgias-best-kept-secret.html. Diocese of Savannah. Diocesan Archives. Record of baptism for Thomas Joseph Garry. <<http://boards.rootsweb.com/surnames.garry/2.4/mb.ashx>>. Subject: Family History. Author: Anne Garry Richmond. Date: Thursday, July 08, 1999. 1880 U.S. Census, New York State, New York Co., New York. T9, roll 066, E.D. 1, p. 32A. [Thomas Garry, d. Sept. 10, 1880, age 70. Mountain parish, Westmeath]. "Irish place names from St. James and St. Augustine Cemeteries, Bridgeport, CT," Nora Galvin, Harlan Jessup, Paul

Keroack, in Connecticut Ancestry, Vol. 52, No. 4 (May 2010), p. 171. Bridgeport, CT. Registrar of Vital Records. Marriages, 1871-1905. Thomas J. Garry, p. 400. FHL microfilm 1428470. "Industrial growth attracted Irish families to Bridgeport in 1830s," Paul Keroack, in Shanachie Vol. 21, No. 4 (2009), p. 5-6. City directories of Bridgeport, 1884-1907. 1900 U.S. Census, Connecticut, Fairfield Co., Bridgeport. T623, roll 131, E.D. 26, p. 15B. 1910 U.S. Census, New York, Albany Co., Albany. T624, roll 921, E.D. 93, p. 5A. Albany Times-Union, obituary of Thomas J. Garry: 27 March 1954. New York State. Dept. of Health, Office of Vital Statistics. No. 593. Thomas J. Garry: March 26, 1954.

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"We have kept faith
with the past;
we have handed
a tradition
to the future."

— Padraic Pearse

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